

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 00177 081427Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 CU-04 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /096 W

----- 103337

R 081355Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7565

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: SOLZHENITSYN

REF: SOFIA 0024

1. BULGARIAN ANTI-SOLZHENITSYN CAMPAIGN REACHED HIGH POINT  
FEBRUARY 6 WITH PUBLICATION IN ALL MAJOR DAILIES OF DECLARATION  
OF UNION OF BULGARIAN WRITERS, OVER THE NAME OF CHAIRMAN PANTELEY  
ZARAV, UNION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION FOR  
"VERIFICATION". DECLARATION, MAJOR PORTIONS OF WHICH WERE ALSO  
READ ON EVENING RADIO AND TELEVISION NEWSCASTS, DECLARES  
SOLZHENITSYN'S WRITING DEVOID OF LITERARY MERIT AND ACCUSES  
AUTHOR OF "ANTI-SOVIETISM...HARTED OF COMMUNISM....  
HOSTILITY TOWARDS SOVIET STATE AND CITIZENS" AND OF BEING A  
"COUNTER REVOLUTIONARY...INCAPABLE OF BROTHERLY FEELINGS FOR HIS  
PEOPLE". DECLARATION CONDEMNS SOLZHENITSYN AS "PATHOLOGICAL  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 00177 081427Z

CASE" WHOSE ACTIONS ARE "INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE CONCEPT OF A

WRITER AND CITIZEN", SUNK IN "MESSIANIC MANIA AND ANTI-COMMUNIST RAGE...THE CRIMINAL INSTIGATOR OF AN ATOMIC CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND IMPERIALISM".

2. CAMPAIGN TO DISCREDIT SOLZHENITSYN FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO" HAD PREVIOUSLY CONSISTED MOSTLY OF REPRINTS IN NEWSPAPERS OF MATERIALS FROM SOVIET PRESS; ANTI-SOLZHENITSYN EDITORIAL COMMENT FROM SYMPATHETIC PRESS IN NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES; FREQUENT AND FAIRLY EXTENSIVE COMMENTARIES ON RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTARIES, USUALLY BASED ON SOVIET AND OTHER FOREIGN MEDIA; AND OCCASIONAL PIECES BY BULGARIAN WRITERS IN "LITURATUREN FRONT", "NARODNA KULTURA" AND OTHER LITERARY PUBLICATIONS AS WELL AS ARTICLES BY KAMEN KALCHEV, AND OTHER PROMINENT BULGARIAN WRITERS IN "VECHERNI NOVINI'S" FRONT PAGE FEATURE "WRITER'S TRIBUNE".

3. PRIOR TO UNION'S DECLARATION, STRONGEST CRITICISM OF SOLZHENITSYN HAD BEEN BULGARIAN UNION OF JOURNALISTS CHAIRMAN (BCP CC MEMBER AND RD EDITOR-IN-CHIEF) GEORGI BOKOV'S LONG, SIGNED ARTICLE IN RD JANUARY 14 LABELLING SOLZHENITSYN AS "AGENT OF IMPERIALISM" GUILTY OF "TREASON...A POLITICAL BANDIT IN THE SERVICE OF THE CRUELIST ENEMIES OF SOCIALISM AND THE USSR".

4. COMMENT: (A) DESPITE PREDICTABLE SPATE OF ANTI-SOLZHENITSYN PIECES BY INDIVIDUAL WRITERS AND CRITICS, BULGARIAN CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED. THAT DECLARATION WAS MADE ON BEHALF ONLY OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF WRITERS UNION AND NOT ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP REFLECTS LESS THAN TOTAL ENTHUSIASM FOR CAMPAIGN AMONG BULGARIAN LITERARY CIRCLES AND PROBABLY RELUCTANCE OF LEADERSHIP TO FORCE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP'S APPROVAL FOR FEAR DECLARATION WOULD SUFFER SAME FATE AS SIMILAR ATTEMPTS TO CONDEMN SOVIET DISSIDENTS IN 1971 AND 1973. (B) EMBOFFS DISCUSSED DECLARATION WITH FOUR LEADING BULGARIAN MEDIA OFFICIALS WHO WERE VERY WELL INFORMED ABOUT BOOK AND WESTERN REACTION. THEY DID NOT MAKE A "BIG THING" OF DECLARATION OR EVEN DEFEND IT. THEY DID DOWN PLAY SOLZHENITSYN AS WRITER AND HAD ARGUMENT AS TO WHETHER HE HAD EVER BEEN A MARXIST AFTER ONE BULGAR MAINTAINED SOLZHENITSYN WAS REVERTING BACK TO CHRISTIANITY AND HAVING PROBLEMS DOING SO. BATJER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ANTISOVIET, PARTY FACTIONS, PUBLICITY CAMPAIGNS, BOOKS, GULAG ARCHIPELAGO  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 FEB 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SOFIA00177  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** SOFIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740245/aaaabqdd.tel  
**Line Count:** 99  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** SOFIA 0024  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SOLZHENITSYN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BU, (SOLZHENITSYN, ALEKSANDR I)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005